



**P B M E C K**  
PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING

# PB Meck Ambassador Toolkit 2022



Facebook/MecklenburgCounty



<https://twitter.com/MeckCounty>



[@instagram.com/mecklenburgcounty/](https://www.instagram.com/mecklenburgcounty/)

[budget.mecknc.gov](https://budget.mecknc.gov)

**Your Ideas, Your Impact**



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# IMPORTANT CONTACTS

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[budget.mecknc.gov](http://budget.mecknc.gov)

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# MECKLENBURG COUNTY

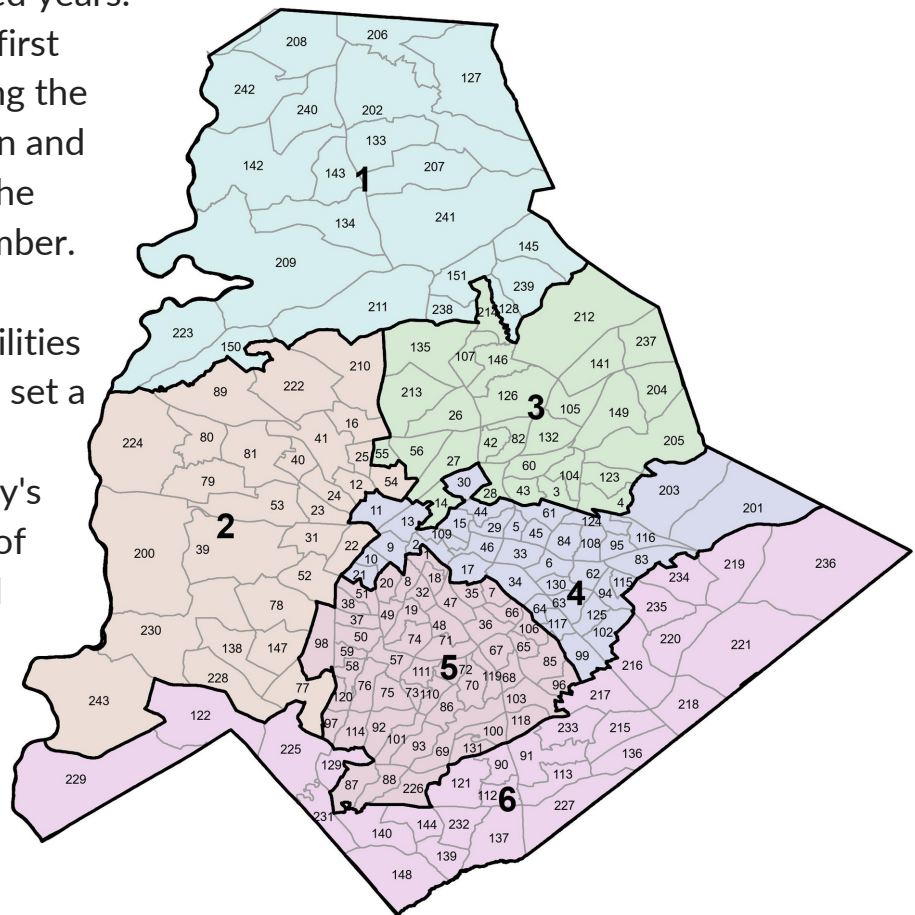
## ABOUT

Mecklenburg County was formed in 1762 from the western part of Anson County and the first official governmental action took place in February 1763. The North Carolina State Constitution approved in 1868 gave the citizens of all counties the right to elect a Board of County Commissioners to govern them.

From 1868 to 1986, Mecklenburg County was governed by a five-member board elected at-large. The first seven-member board took office in 1986 and in 1994, the first nine-member Board took office. Six members are elected by districts and three are elected at-large.

Elections for the Board are held in November of even-numbered years. The Board takes office on the first Monday in December following the November election. A chairman and vice-chairman are elected at the Board's first meeting in December.

The Board's primary responsibilities are to adopt an annual budget, set a property tax rate and establish priorities to address the County's needs, especially in the areas of health, education, welfare and mental health.





PB MECK  
PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING

# PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING

## WELCOME

Hello!

We're excited to announce that the Participatory Budget Pilot Program to Mecklenburg County. This means with your ideas you can directly impact your communities needs.

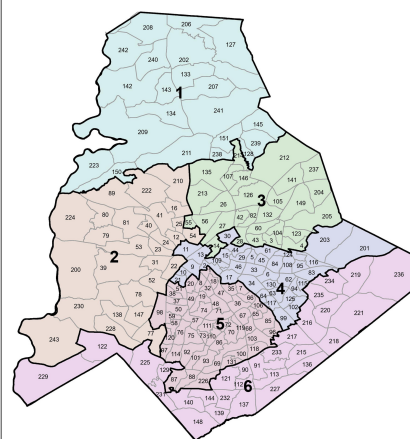
We're thrilled that you've decided to become a volunteer.

## WHAT IS PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING?

Participatory Budgeting (PB) is a process that allows community members to identify, discuss, and prioritize public spending projects. This program puts real decision-making power into the hands of county residents to direct which community projects are funded in the upcoming budget.



Representatives for these Districts will appear on your ballot in 2021



[budget.mecknc.gov](https://budget.mecknc.gov)

**Your Ideas, Your Impact**



# **WATCH AN INFO SESSION**

## **PB Meck: Participatory Budgeting (PB) for Mecklenburg County**

**English**



**Spanish**





# PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING PROCESS



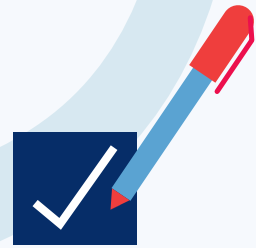
BRAINSTORM  
**IDEAS**



DEVELOP  
**PROPOSAL**



FUND WINNING  
**PROJECTS**



**VOTE**

**Your Ideas, Your Impact**



# HOW TO SUBMIT AN IDEA

1

Visit the county website



Search the FAQ to learn about the process

2

3

Submit your idea

**SUBMIT**



[budget.mecknc.gov](https://budget.mecknc.gov)



# HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Your support is vital in our efforts. Here is everything you need to support us.

- **Boost Engagement**

- Repost and share via social media ([Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#))

- **Personalize**

- Share details of the program with friends, family and colleagues.

- **Sustainability**

- Commit to sharing the program a minimum of twice a month during Winter/Spring 2022.

- **Social**

- [Social Media Posts](#)
- [Infographics](#)



# PROJECT ELIGIBILITY

## WHAT CAN BE FUNDED

- A one-time expenditure that does not exceed \$125,000.
- Each project should not exceed this amount. Also, the project must be a one-time expenditure, not a multi-year project.
- Benefit the public: projects should impact the overall community.
- One-time expenditures that address a community need.
- One-time projects may include physical infrastructure, technological improvements, and community enhancements.
- One-time projects do not have ongoing operating costs, such as additional staff.
- Examples of one-time projects include park improvements or computers for a community center.
- Installing new playground equipment
- Renovating a portion of a park
- Public Art

## NOT ELIGIBLE

- Projects that do not align to a County service, such as sidewalk construction, street repair, CATS related projects, etc.
- Capital projects that are not on County-owned property.
- Projects that require multi-year funding (ie. full-time staff, significant ongoing maintenance, etc.)
- Projects which primarily benefit an individual or private business (eg. emoluments).
- Projects which are political in nature, or may directly benefit a political candidate or organization



# PB MECK PROJECTS

## EXAMPLES

- Solar Panels "Smart Flowers"
  - Urban Micro Forest
  - Rain Gardens
  - Bridging the Digital Divide
  - Misting Stations
  - Creative Play Space
  - Outdoor Exercise Equipment
  - Enhance Neighborhood Greenway
- Planting Bee Friendly Flowers
  - Refrigerator for Homeless residents
  - Lockers for Homeless residents
  - Neighborhood Farmers Market
  - Community Captains Program
  - New Computer Lab at Library
  - Managing Your Finances Workshop

### **Plant Bee-Friendly Flowers**

Purchase and plant bee-friendly flowers at local parks. This initiative will help support the local bee populations and combat colony collapse and improve pollination at community gardens.

Location – County Park and Recreation Facilities.

\$25K plus land

**CATEGORY:** Environmental Protection, Parks & Recreation

### **Public Refrigerator**

The purpose of this project is to install refrigerators that anyone can use to deposit food for those in need. Restaurants, stores, and members of the community can access this resource, and volunteers will manage and clean out old food. This idea is inspired by the Solidarity Fridge in Bilbao, Spain.

Location – County Choice

\$50K

**CATEGORY:** Public Health

### **Lockers for the Homeless**

The homeless don't have a place to store their personal items. This may prevent them from seeking out resources because of their fear of losing their items to theft or being thrown away. Storage lockers would allow them to safely store their items so they can attend appointments, get assistance, etc. This could also have the added benefit of cleaning up cluttered sidewalks, parks, doorways, etc.

Location – County Choice

\$50K

**CATEGORY:** Public Health, Public Safety



# FAQ'S

1) How do we decide which projects to propose? Volunteers will help to prioritize projects that best serve the needs of the community and that benefit the most disadvantaged groups. Use the criteria and tools offered in this guide to begin evaluating project ideas.

2) What is a Participatory Budgeting Cycle? Each of the 6 County Districts will be represented by a 10-12 member Volunteer Team responsible for generating project ideas for their district. These ideas are then added to a community-wide vote. Winning projects will be funded by Mecklenburg County.

3) How does it work?

Select District Volunteer Teams- County residents are invited to apply to serve on a Volunteer Team representing their district. Each Volunteer Team will be led by two co-leads.

Brainstorm Project Ideas - Volunteer Teams, selected by members of the community, brainstorm ideas for projects from their district using online tools like surveys to capture ideas from district residents.

Develop Project Ideas- Residents will share and discuss project ideas with the members of the Volunteer Teams. The Co-leads will develop the ideas into feasible proposals, which are then vetted by experts. Co-leads and Volunteer Team members will attend a Decision Sprint in February 2022 hosted by Wily.

PB Voting - All Mecklenburg County residents will get a chance to vote on final project ideas during Spring 2022. To make it easy for residents to participate, there will be online and offline opportunities to vote.

Project Implementation - Mecklenburg County government implements the winning projects. The government and residents track and monitor implementation of the winning projects to complete PB Cycle 1.

4) What is a Volunteer Team?

As a member of the Volunteer Team, you are a community advisor for your District facilitating a transparent process rooted in community needs. Volunteer Team members work to research, evaluate, and prioritize the project ideas submitted by community members from January to February 2022. Volunteer Teams will also get to finalize their ideas through a Decision Sprint hosted by Wily. Volunteer Teams help develop the final project proposals for the PB Voting period in Spring 2022.

5) What kind of projects are we looking for?

All submitted projects should be one-time projects and in alignment with Mecklenburg County's Service Priorities: Health, Housing and Homelessness Prevention and Support, Youth Support, Literacy and Education, Park and Recreation, the Environment, and Workforce Development. Projects like sidewalk construction, bus stops, and street repair are not eligible. Projects that require multi-year funding are also not eligible. Community beautification projects like public art for your district are eligible for funding. An example of a good PB project for Mecklenburg County is playground equipment or outdoor workout equipment for your neighborhood park. The suggested budget is up to \$125,000 per project.



# TOOLS AND RESOURCES

You will receive maps, community needs data, population statistics, department information and projects from previous PB ballots in other cities, plus additional tools to help you assess needs and evaluate projects according to the criteria above.

You will likely want to do additional research on project ideas to determine how well a project responds to community needs.

## BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONER FY22 BUDGET PRIORITIES

- **Racial Disparities:** Ensure that investments by the County focus on closing racial and ethnic gaps so that race does not predict one's success, while also improving outcomes for all.
- **Affordable Housing:** Evaluate new housing opportunities that are affordable to residents in need.
- **Education Attainment Gaps:** Link existing allocations to strategies and targets to improve college and career readiness outcomes for all students.
- **Environmental Leadership:** Implement the Environmental Leadership Action Plan.
- **Meck Pre-K:** Continue implementation of voluntary, universal public pre-k for all eligible 4-year-old children.
- **Workforce Development:** Provide leadership and align communication with job seekers and employers.

## ADDITIONAL RESEARCH ON COUNTY SERVICE AREAS

- Mecklenburg County Annual Performance Report <https://performancereport-meckgov.hub.arcgis.com/>
- Park and Recreation Playbook <https://meckplaybook.com/>
- Mecklenburg County State of County Health Report <https://www.mecknc.gov/HealthDepartment/HealthStatistics/Pages/CommunityOverview.aspx>
- Charlotte-Mecklenburg Housing & Homelessness Data Fact Sheet <https://secureservercdn.net/50.62.172.157/275.2a4.myftpupload.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/2021-Charlotte-Mecklenburg-Housing-Data-Factsheet.pdf>
- Education <https://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Statistics-Trends-and-Reports/CMS-Fast-Facts>
- Information about your District <https://mcmap.org/geoportal/#-80.8714,35.2236/voting>
- Mecklenburg county FY22 Adopted Budget <https://www.mecknc.gov/CountyManagersOffice/OMB/Pages/Home.aspx>

## MECKLENBURG COUNTY SUPPORT SERVICES

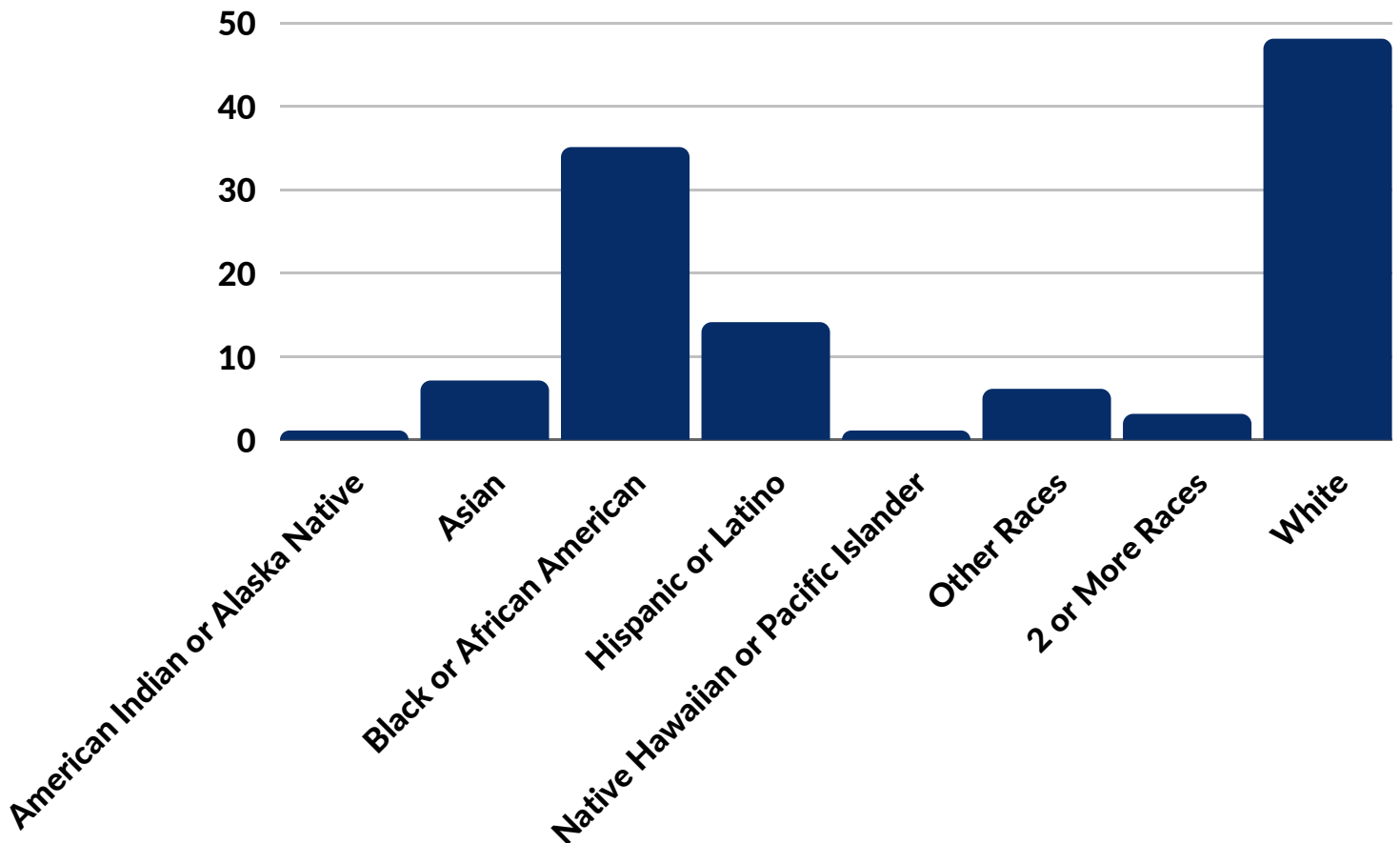
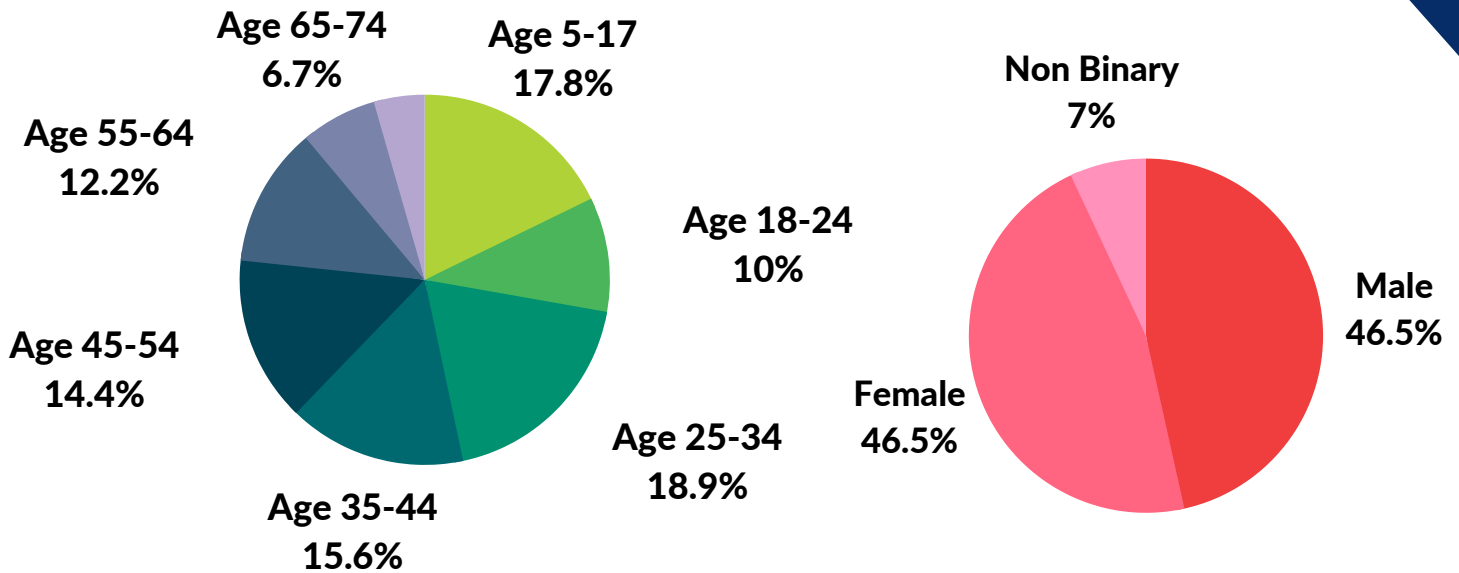
- Affordable Housing\*
- Arts\*
- Child Welfare
- Court Buildings
- Domestic Violence Services
- Economic Development\*
- Educational Buildings
- Elections
- Environmental Protection
- Historic Preservation\*
- Homeless Services
- Jails
- Landfills/Waste Disposal
- Libraries
- Meck Pre-K
- MEDIC Ambulances
- Park & Recreation
- Public Health
- Register of Deed
- Senior Nutrition
- Stormwater Drainage\*
- Workforce Development\*
- \* County service in conjunction with community partners



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PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING

# DEMOGRAPHICS

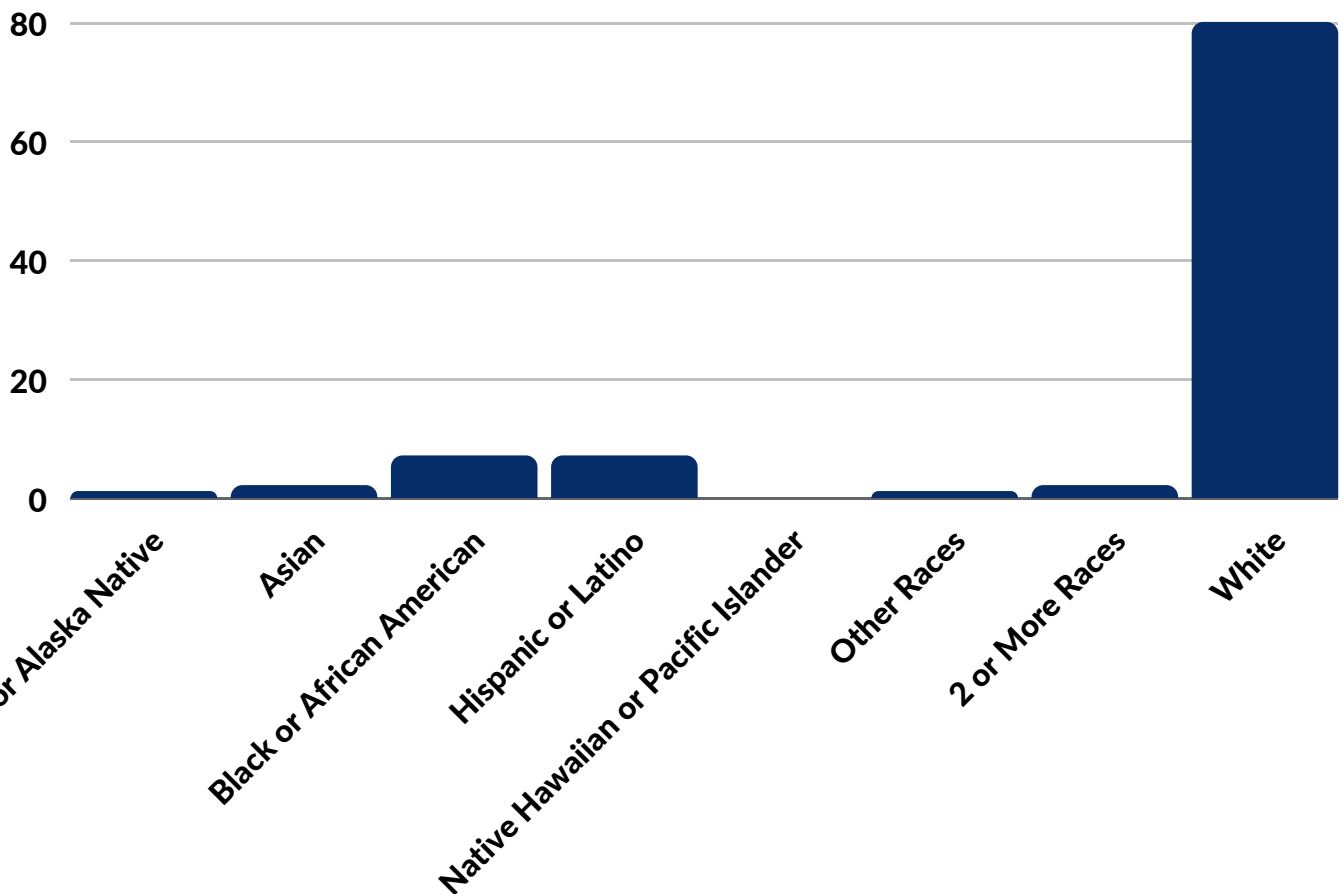
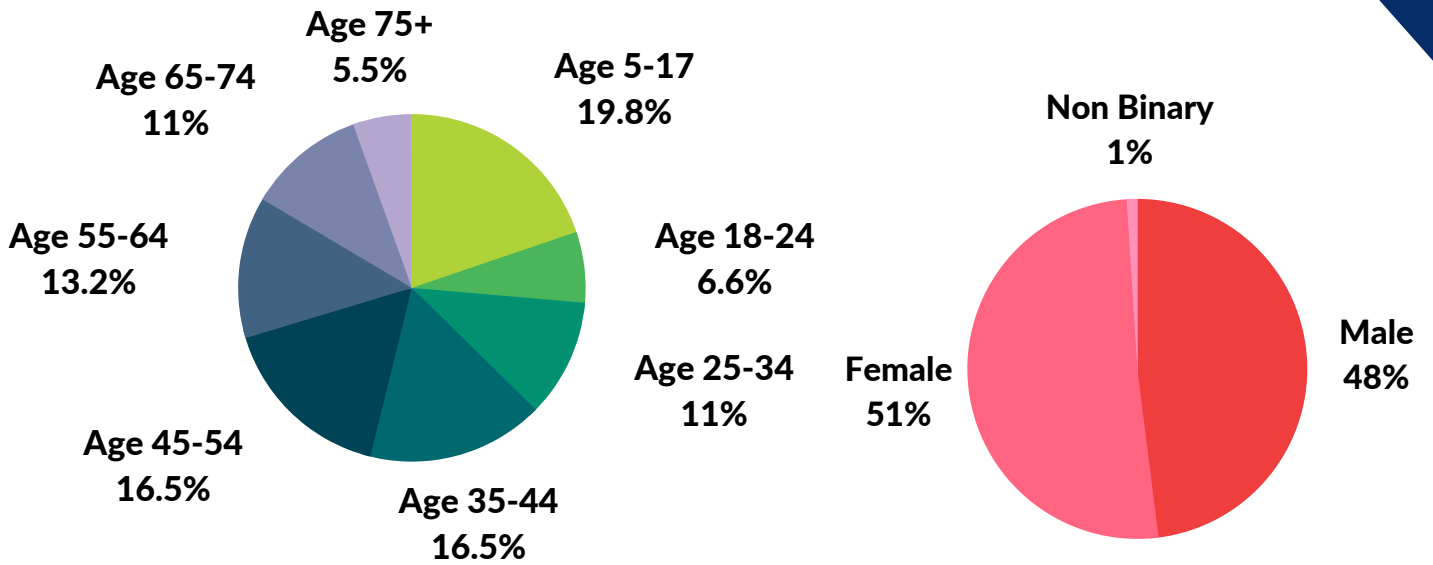
## CHARLOTTE





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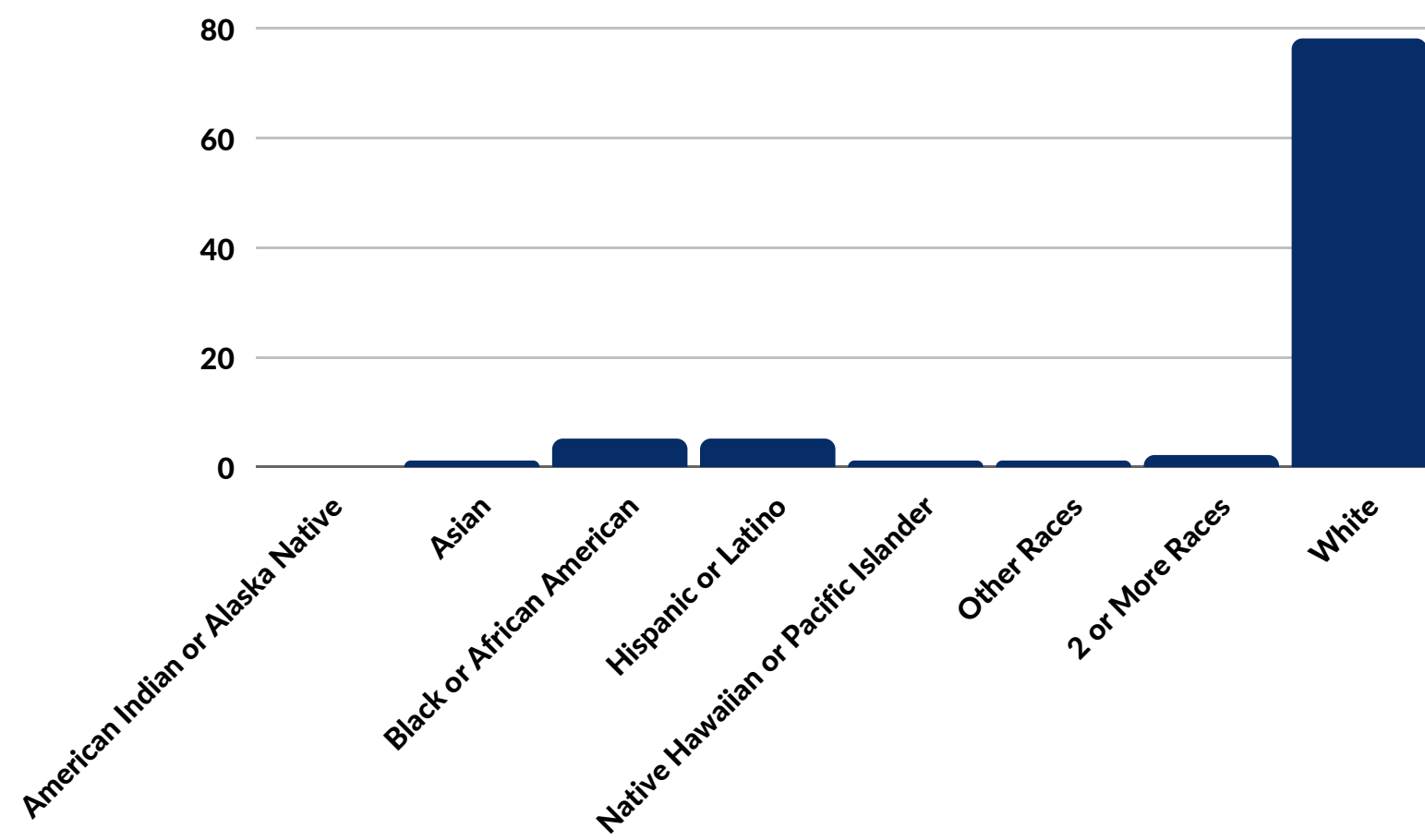
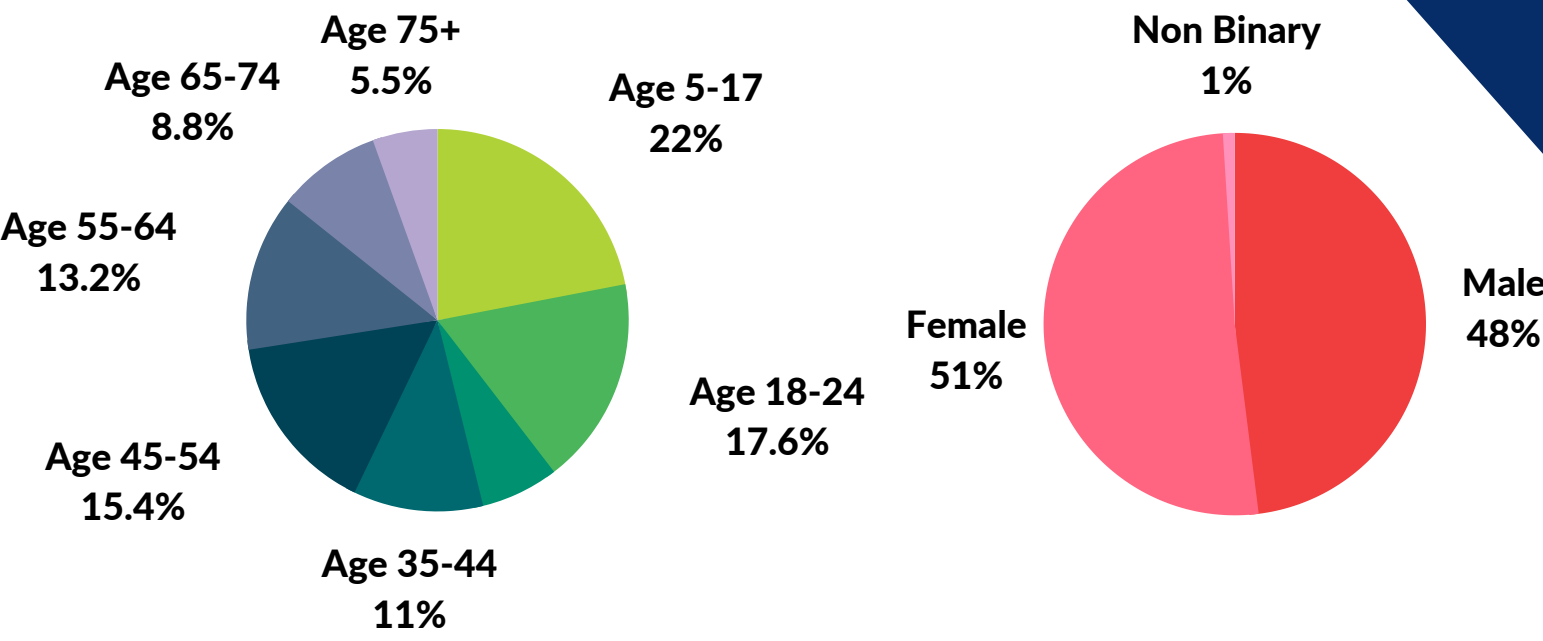
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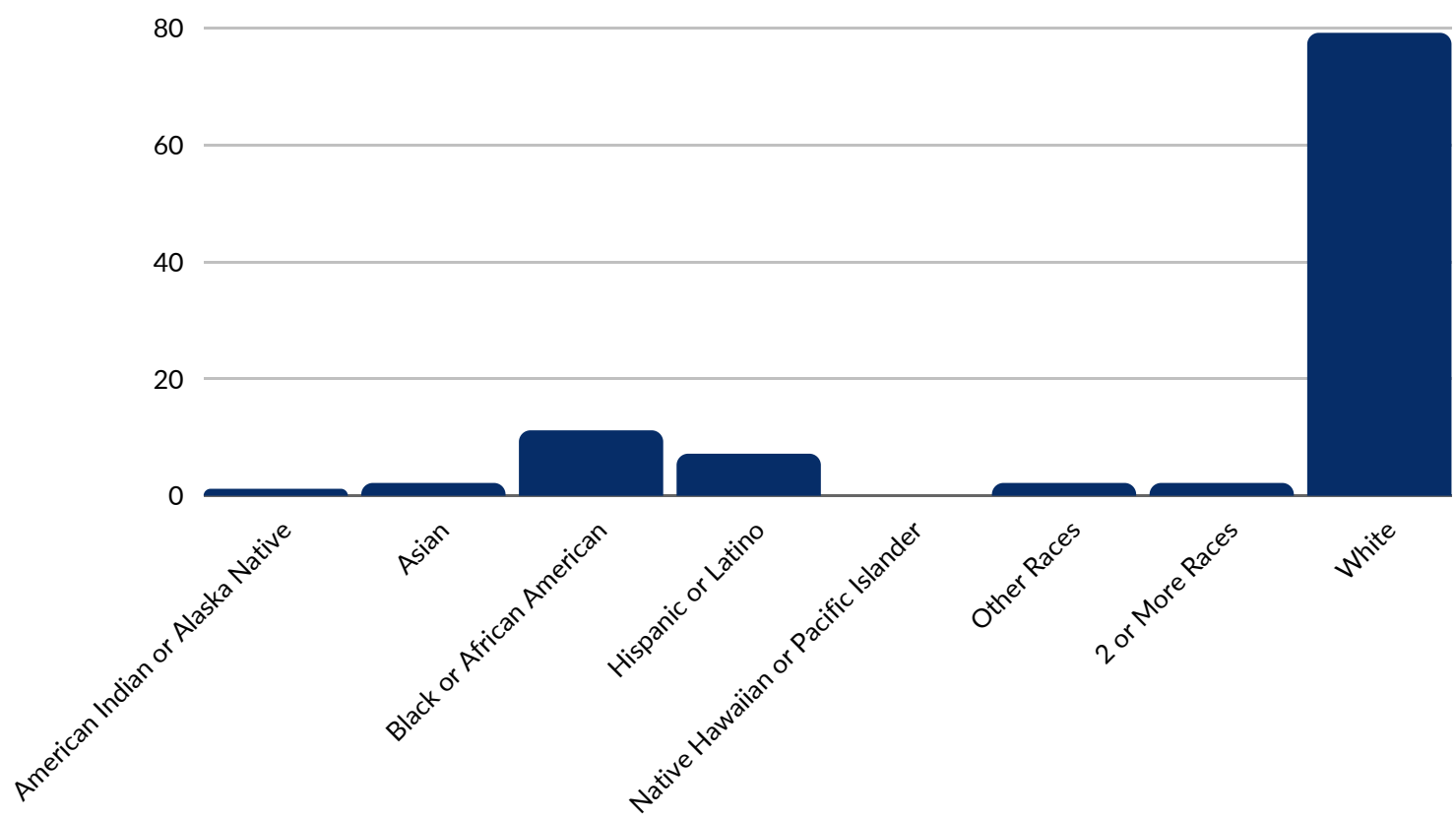
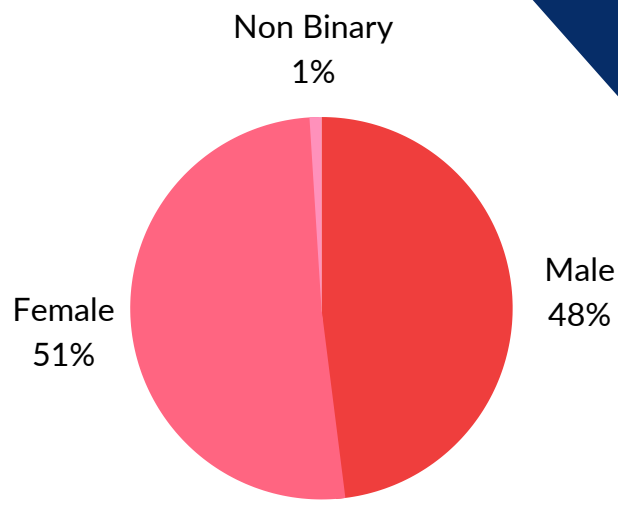
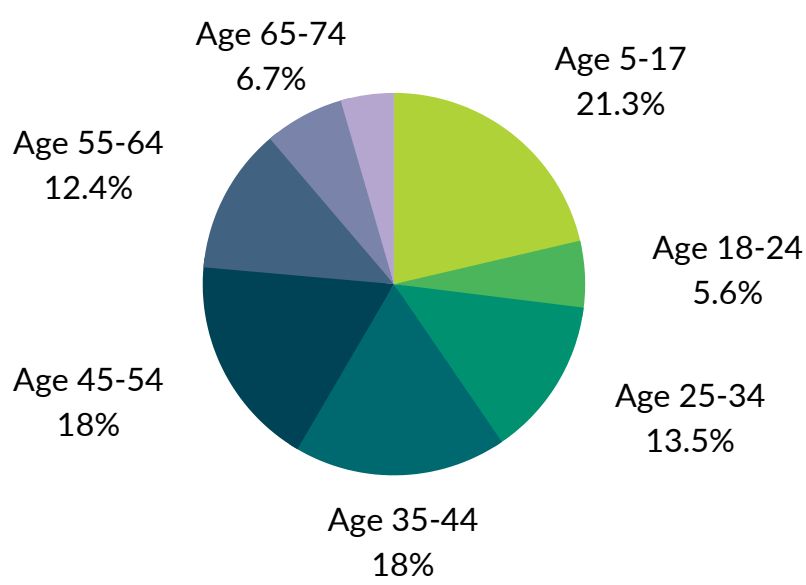
## DAVIDSON





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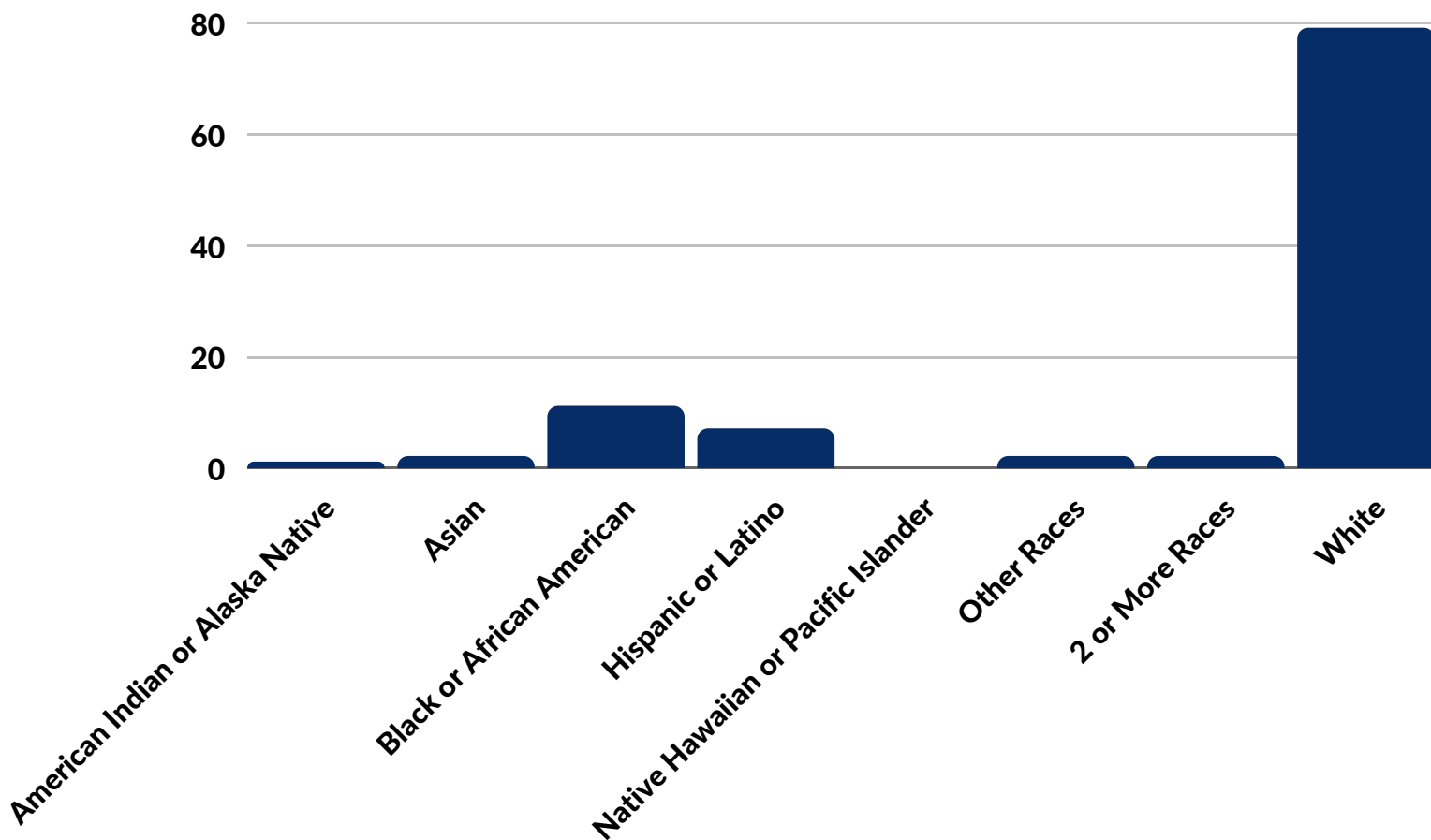
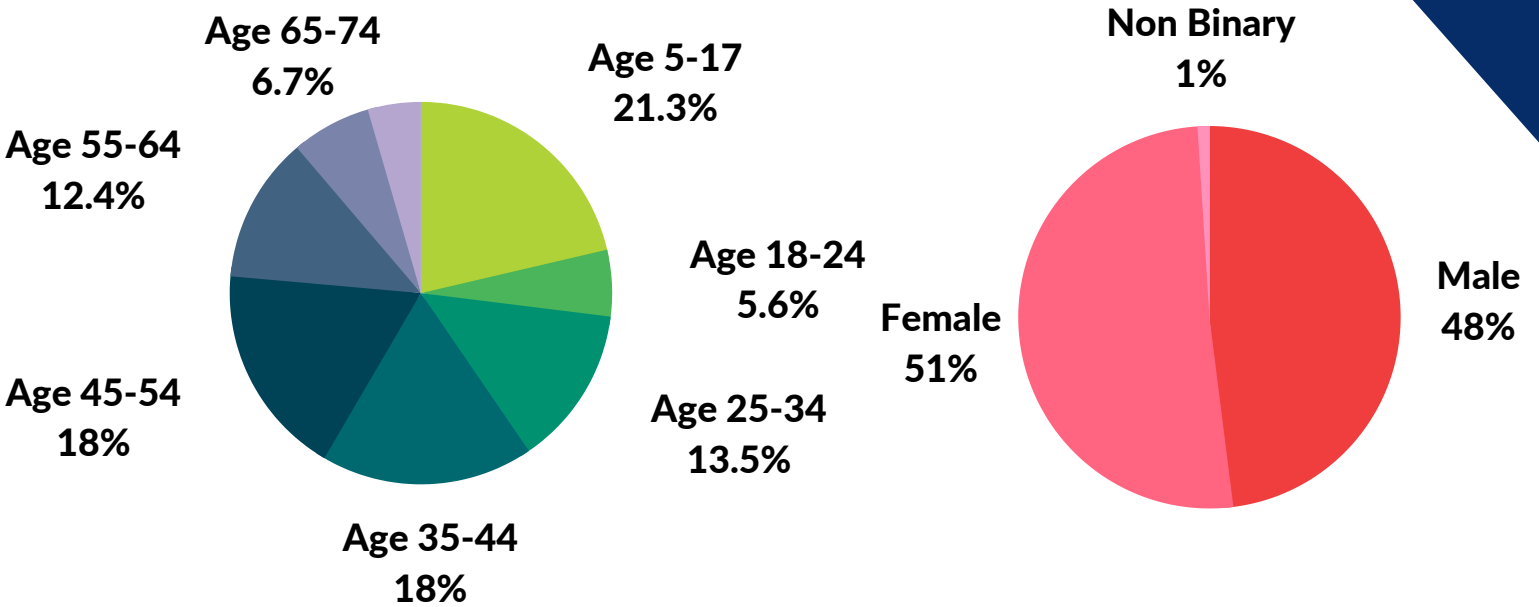
## HUNTERSVILLE





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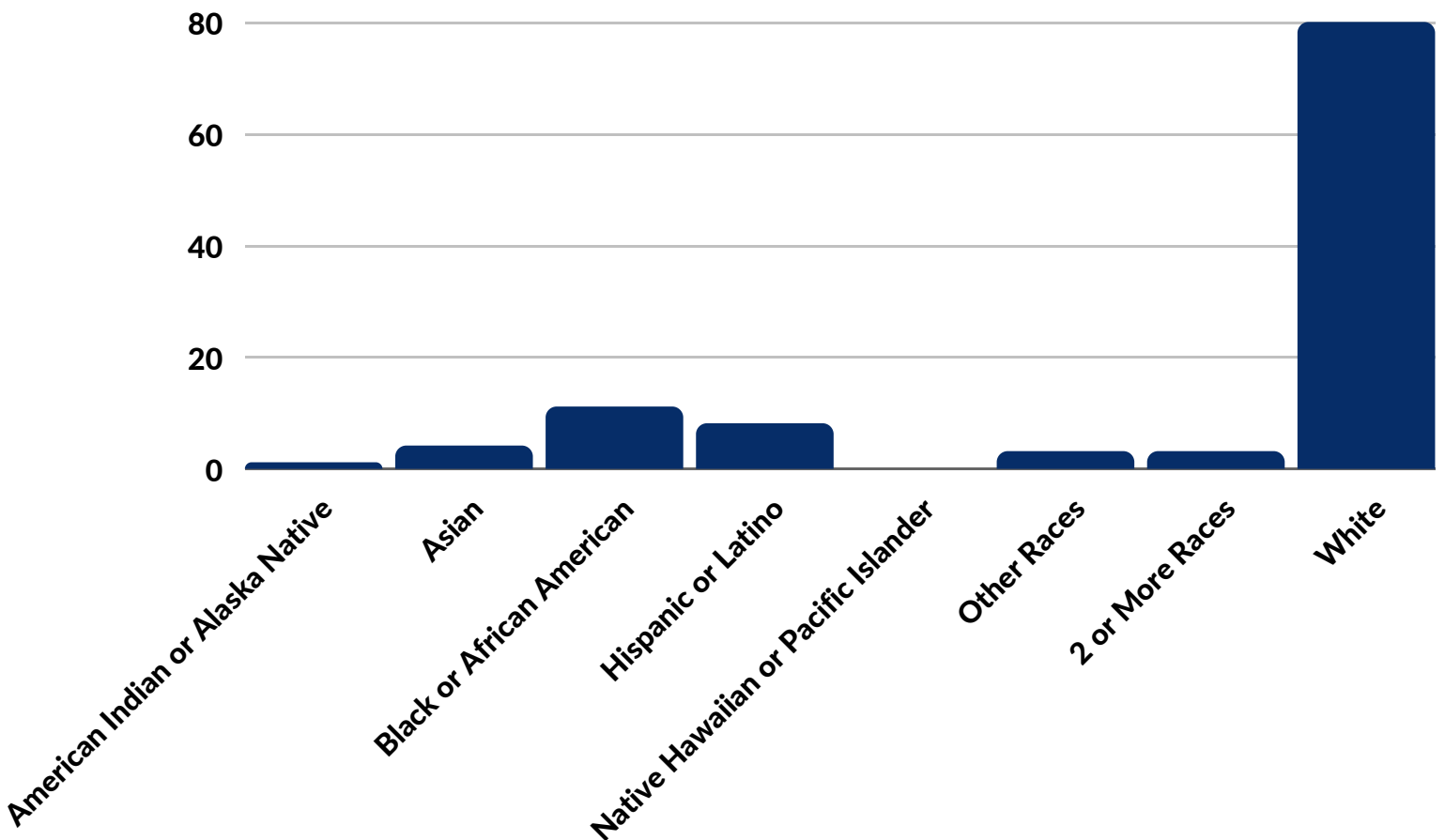
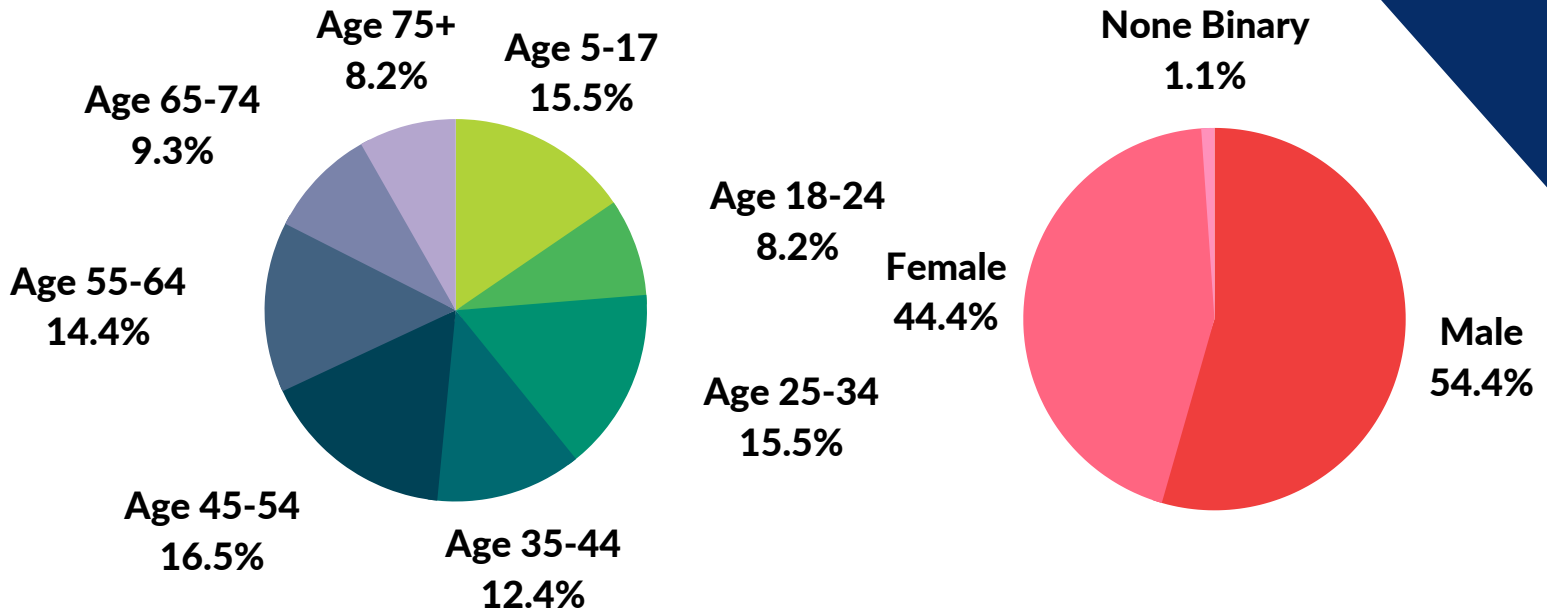
## HUNTERSVILLE





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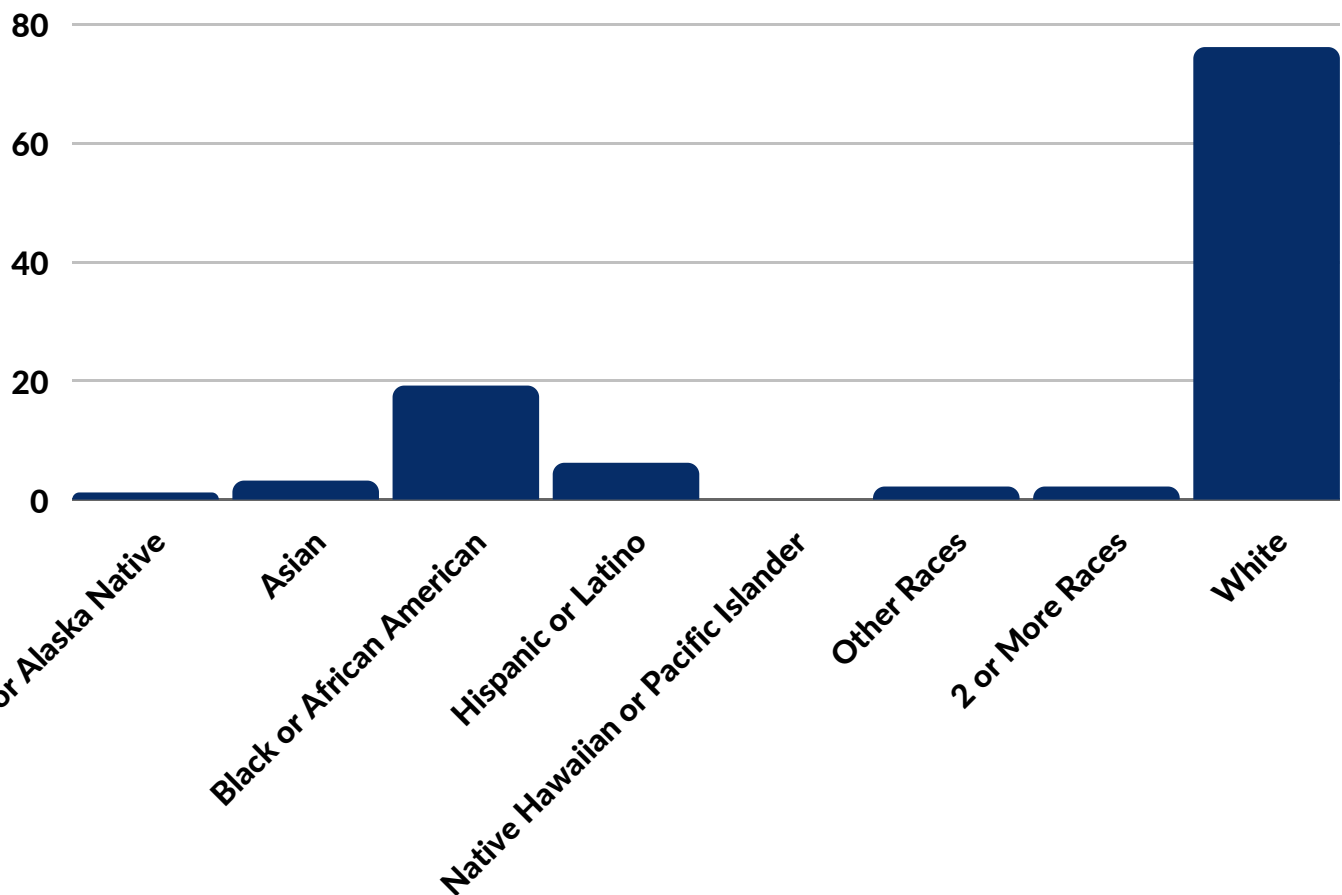
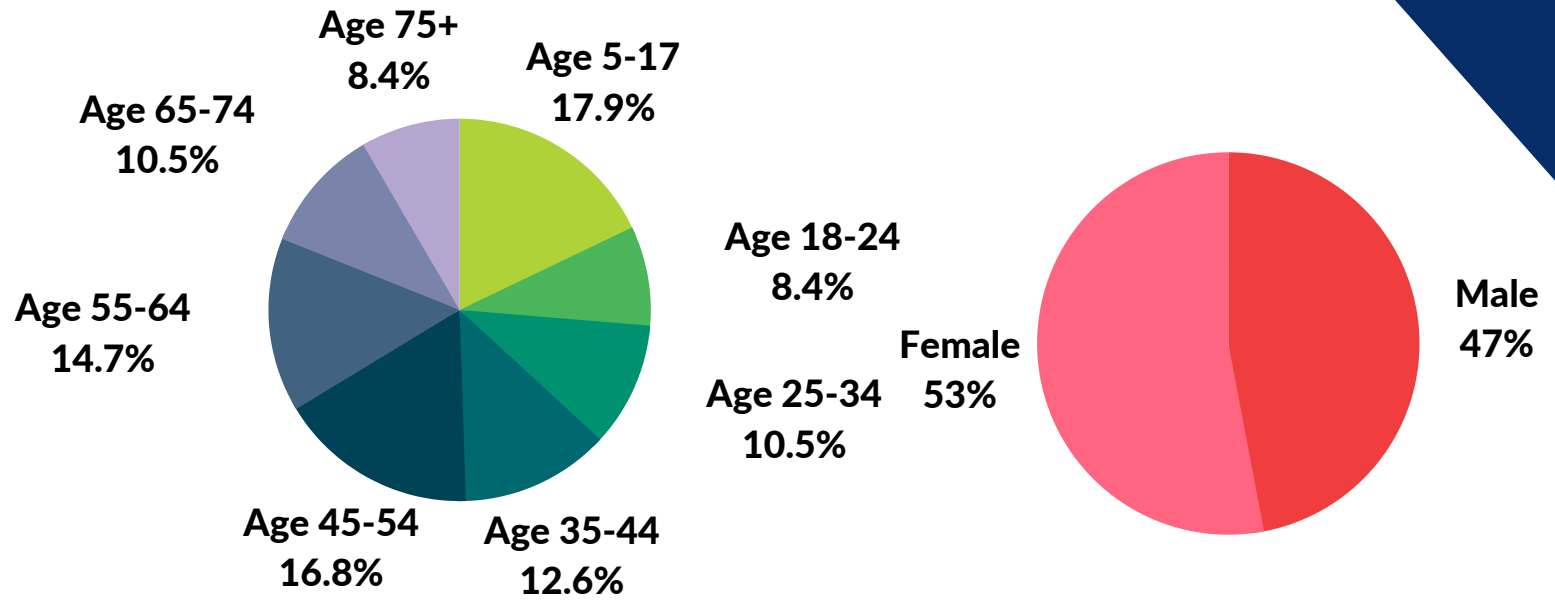
## MATTHEWS





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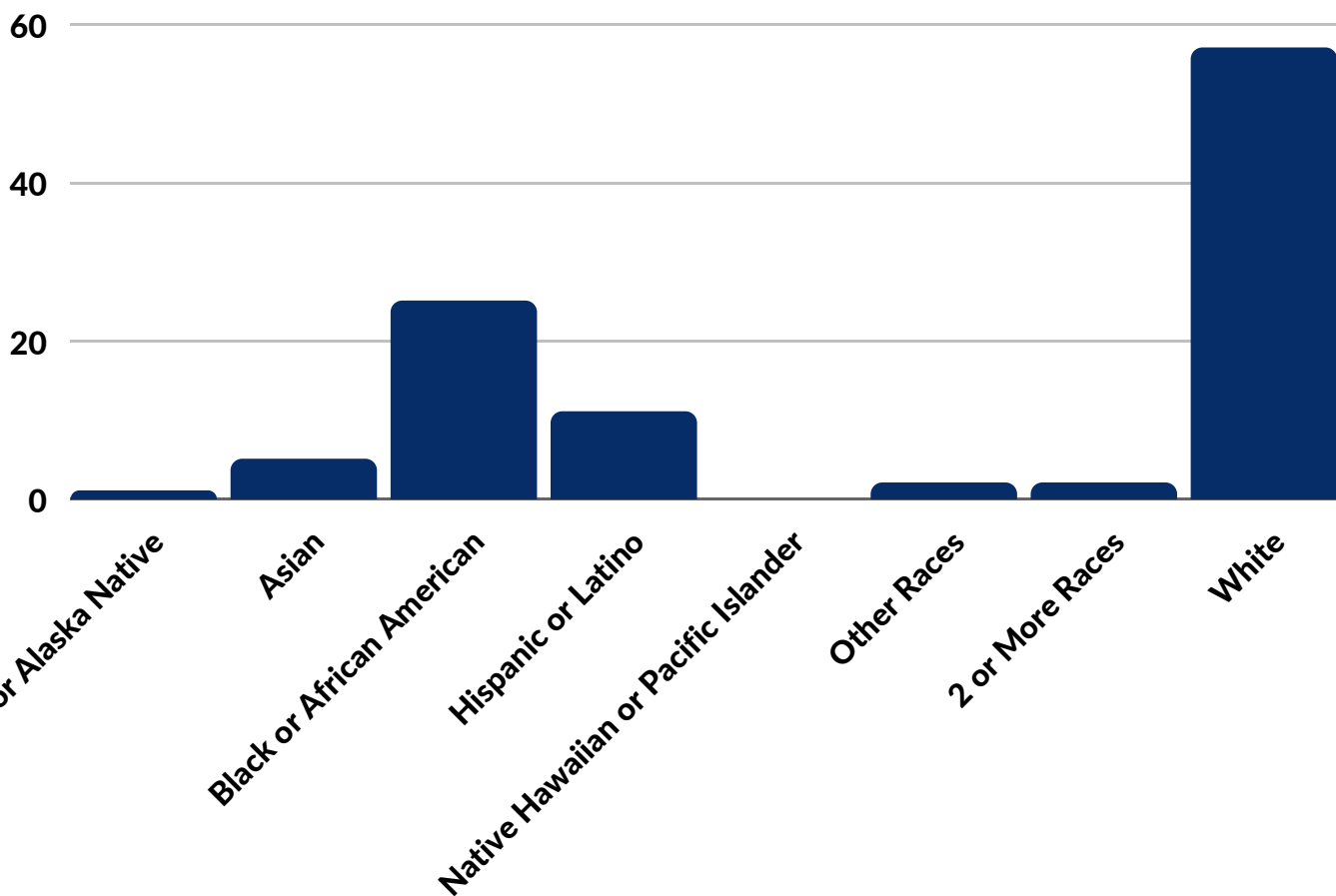
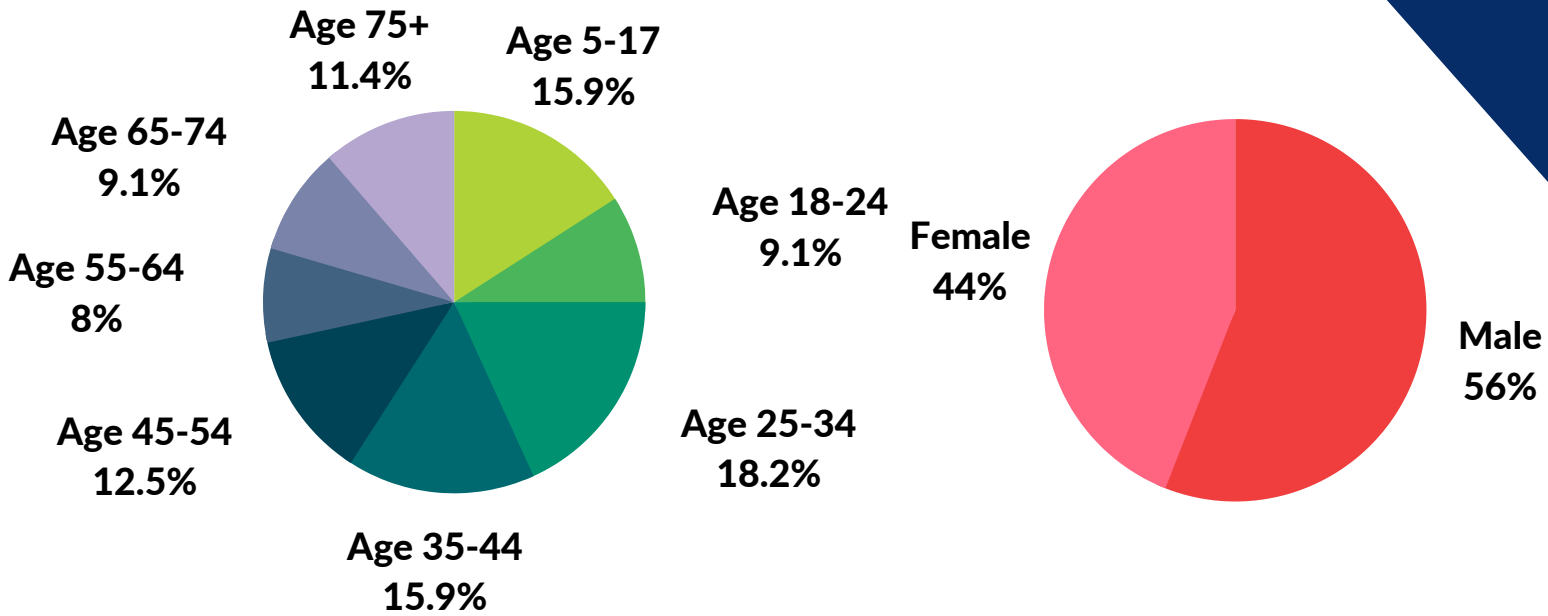
## MINT HILL





# DEMOGRAPHICS

## PINEVILLE



# Mecklenburg County **PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING**



BRAINSTORM  
IDEAS



SUBMIT  
PROPOSALS



FUND  
PROJECTS



**Your Ideas. Your Impact.**

## Submit a Project Idea

What is your residential Zip Code? \_\_\_\_\_

What County Commission District do you live in? [Click to Find your District](#)

- |                                     |                                     |                                     |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> District 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> District 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> District 3 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> District 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> District 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> District 6 |

Describe your project idea, including the suggested location.

### Your Project Idea:

- Must be a one time project
- Must not benefit one individual or privately owned business
- Must fit into a Mecklenburg County service or resource

### Select the Category for your Project Idea

- |   |   |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Affordable Housing | <input type="checkbox"/> Education & Literacy     | <input type="checkbox"/> Economic Development    | <input type="checkbox"/> Park & Recreation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Criminal Justice   | <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Protection | <input type="checkbox"/> Health & Human Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Other Service     |

How much do you think your project will cost? \_\_\_\_\_

Submit this form online or Download and email this form to [outreach@pbmeck.org](mailto:outreach@pbmeck.org)

Or Mail this form to  
Attn: Kaelan Boyd  
Office of Management & Budget  
600 E. 4th Street, 11th Floor, Charlotte, NC 28202



# **Let's make a difference together!**

**Your Ideas, Your Impact**